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**YOUTH FOR PEACE**

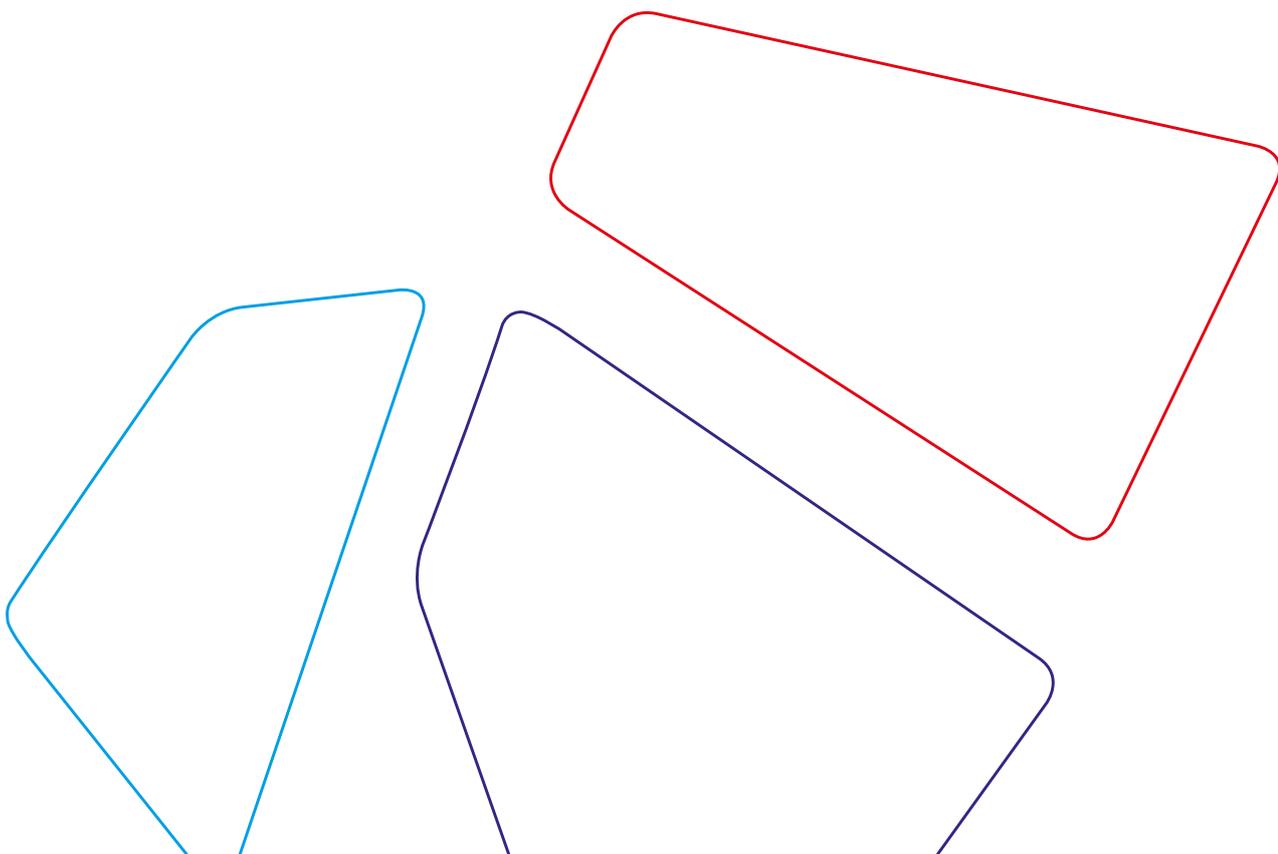
**100** Years after World War I  
Ideas for Peace

# 500 Young People for Peace

Closing Documentation  
International Youth Meeting

“Youth for Peace – 100 Years after World War I,  
100 Ideas for Peace”

Berlin, 14–18/11/2018



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## Editorial



It was a great honour and pleasure for the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) to welcome 500 young people from 48 countries to "Youth for Peace – 100 Years after World War I, 100 Ideas for Peace" in November 2018 in Berlin. This youth meeting was conceived under the patronage of the German Foreign Office and the French Mission du Centenaire de la Première Guerre mondiale, and organised in cooperation with 18 partner organisations.

Personally, I was very touched to welcome and get to know the young participants during the event in Berlin. They gathered in a great forum of exchange whose educational concept was based on the understanding that the diversity of remembrance and historical memories in France and in Germany can be a source of inspiration for Europe and its neighbouring countries. The Franco-German friendship, that was built after the suffering of the two World Wars remains a powerful symbol of the desire for reconciliation and understanding.

In this spirit, we conceived a programme relying on intercultural dialogue and multi-perspectivity, touching upon the origin of conflicts, mechanisms of repetition, and, of course, the building and maintaining of peace.

After the emotion of the commemoration ceremonies in Compiègne, France, and at the Arc de triomphe in Paris on 11 November 2018, we – together with all our partners, and in particular with the patrons of the event, the German Foreign Office and the French Mission du Centenaire – wanted to look towards a very concrete and future-oriented dimension, and create a link between the current situation in certain countries and the world as it was left after World War I in 1918.

The aim was also to think about European identity and the responsibility of Europe in the world – a subject that is even more topical now in the lead-up to the European elections. The results of the young people's work is impressive; together they developed ideas for peace in a very short period of time, along with concrete suggestions for putting them into practice.

The ideas for peace developed by the 20 workshop groups illustrate three major common concerns shared by a great number of the young participants from all the different countries and backgrounds: Their first concern is education. They are appealing for equal, free and facilitated access to high-quality education and knowledge, which cannot be taken for granted everywhere. They are also asking for

more opportunities and equal or facilitated access to participating in international youth exchange programmes, while encouraging the involvement of participants from different social backgrounds.

Another concern is the equal distribution of wealth, the struggle against poverty and social inequalities. Overcoming widening wealth gaps could prevent future conflicts.

Third, they underlined the opportunities that digital technology can offer for communication, transparency, civil society movements and commitment to greater causes. But they also criticized the dangers of "fake news", such as the spread or reinforcement of prejudices, stereotypes, racism and nationalism...

The young participants felt it was important to stand up for these things.

I would like to congratulate the Youth for Peace participants for their energy, courage, language skills and many other qualities. They should be very proud of themselves.

The FGYO will take steps to sustain the Ideas for Peace in our networks and for instance arrange for the Youth for Peace ideas to be presented at the next Peace Forum in Paris in 2019. They were presented to the 1 200 guests at the Volkstrauertag remembrance ceremony at the Bundestag on 18 November 2018.

I would like to thank all our 18 partners, in particular the German Foreign Office, the Mission du Centenaire, the Institut français Germany and the French Embassy in Berlin, the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge, the Office national des anciens combattants et victimes de guerre, and the Körber Stiftung.

Many thanks also to the 60 international youth leaders, who were great intercultural and mediation facilitators as well as talent scouts. Bear in mind that the Ideas for Peace were only conceived during the afternoon and evening before the closing ceremony.

Thank you all for your participation and contribution! 

*"To conclude, I would like to quote a comment by one of the participants that I found particularly moving: I spent four days with young people from countries with which my country is at war. Now, I know that peace is possible."*

Béatrice Angrand  
Secretary General of the FGYO

# Participants' responses

When my German classmates talk about war, it sounds as if it exists only in the past: "How could they do it?" they ask. I think sometimes they do not understand that, even now, there are people living in war zones. We share one goal: all of us want peace. Although most of them do not even know what war is and what it feels like to live during war.

Raghad

Often, we only know the history of our own country. Here, we learn how the conflict affected other countries.

Dalma

My country is becoming very nationalist and conservative, and cutting itself off. By coming here, I wanted to show that there are also people in Poland who celebrate fraternity.

Barbara



I looked around me at the other young people and I said that, a century ago, we would have been fighting in the trenches. I hope that this will not just have been a gathering of young people but that our ideas will eventually be really taken into account.

Antoine

Here, young people feel that they have a role to play. It's great to be able to talk about all these controversial topics and move forward, when a hundred years ago, we would have been at war.

Velislava-Mihaela

I'm from the Balkans, where we're all the same, but we want to be different. Here it's the other way round: we're all different, but we all share the same spirit.

Darko



Looking at my country from so many other perspectives has made me understand that it's not patriotism we're facing: it's nationalism. It's gaining ground and it's a problem. Before coming here, I took peace for granted because I live in a peaceful country. But here, I realised we really can't do that.

Karolina

People take in the world only from their own perspective. When people from different countries gather and talk to each other, their perception changes. Prejudices and indifference give way to friendship.

Nour

When we share, we also put ourselves in other people's shoes; we can understand their viewpoint.

Khaoula

This week gave me lots of food for thought and the motivation to think about and question things in our and other countries. But most of all, I remember that we have a lot in common with young people in all countries: we want peace, justice and freedom!

Florian

I am one of the 100 IFA Ambassadors chosen by our school to represent an idea for peace in Berlin this weekend. We arrived in our different groups and discussed our projects with Mr. Macron and Mr. Steinmeier.

Enzo

Both the Second World War and especially the war during the 1990s are still fresh in Croatia. For me, peace is not only the absence of war but the possibility of achieving progress both socially and economically.

Dario

Peace is not something that just happens. Peace is an achievement that needs a lot of communication, education, commitment and work, as well as socialisation and civilisation.

Younes



I think it's great to live on a continent where so many cultures and world views coexist.

Georgia

Working in these multinational groups helps to reinforce integration.

Kouame David

For me, being a European means having a feeling of community with many different cultures. It doesn't mean feeling superior or believing that European values should apply to the whole world.

Rodia



# Participants

**Participants:** Ilenia, Eraldo, Laura, Xhoana, Kristian, Alfred, Elisabeta, Xheni, Seldan, Yanis, Hana, Kenza, Slimane, Abdelghani, Abdeldjalil, Abdeladhim, Siham, Lamara, Kouame David, Vardine, Davit, Hrant, Diana, Lilit, Nora, Khanum, Anahit, Mariam, Khachik, Astghik, Georges, Ashot, Shushanna, Philip, Martin, Anna-Lena, Laura Sophie, Michaela, Sevil, Iryna, Volha, Dziyana, Olga, Flavian, Pauline, Patrick, Ajdin, Merjem, Nedžad, Hata, Stefan, Srna, Milica, Marina, Georgje, Maja, Aneliya, Sofia, Maria, Velislava-Mihaela, Dario, Christina, Ioanna, Christos, Kristyna, Karolína, Camilla, Mahmoud, Mohamed, Dona, Marina, John, Sondos, Malak, Théo, Inès, Alice, Mehdi, Antoine, Orianne, Sonia, Sidonie, Annabelle, Zakariae, Rashmie, Yahya, Océane, Dovydas, Estéban, Jules, Léa, Léa, Rémy, Anne-Laure, Camellia, Jasmine, Nakib, Donna, Agathe, Héliane, Manuela, Julian, Maya, Mathilde, Houda, Garance, Souleimane, Valentina, Nana, Teona, Ana, Sergo, Nino, Nino, Nour, Raghad, Nele, Emil, Hauke, Rodi, Nele, Antonia, Céline, Emma Susanne, Elisabeth, Cretu, Florian, Niko, Rand, Jonas, Richard, Lukas, Katharina, Paula, Emine, Marie Christin, Ioana Cristina, Julia, Aya, Amir, Abderrahman, Alexianna, Noémie, Heiner Maria, Leonard, Leonard, Paul, Bela, Josephine, Adina, Sagal, Patrice, Franz, Anton, Viktoria, Alyona, Ana, Sebastian, Julia, Charlotte, Andreas, Paula, Harry, Anna Maria, Anastasios, Grigorios, Marios, Borebardhe, Sofia, Giannis, Anna, Andromachi, Iro, Michail, Danai, Artúr, Dávid, Domokos Péter, Emese, Megan, Marina, Ivry, Ilan, May, Yaniv, Tohar, Carola, Francesco, Jacopo, Vanessa, Marlis, Francesco, Amal, Evelina, Rasma, Santa, Ieva, Edmond, Mohammad, Rim, Roberta, Katsiaryna, Neringa, Laura, Aleksandra, Zoran, Marko, Matija, Lenka, Biljana, Samra, Sari, Darko, Milica, Marwa, Youness, Mohamed, Khaoula, Chaymae, Lehmuuh, Afaf, Ismail, Judith, Anna-Sophie, Ekaterina, Helena, Anke, Zain, Taleen, Yasmin, Jwana, Shadin, Sema, Katarzyna, Weronika, Klaudia, Karolina, Kamil, Marta, Kinga, Aleksandra, Zuzanna, Zuzanna, Natalia, Maja, Anna, Barbara, Mateusz, Yuliia, Beatriz, Besarta, Hanumsha, Endrit, Lorenta, Burbuqe, Lirdina, Diona, Albesian, Loresa, Shqipron, Damjan, Marija, Evgenija, Altrim, Ivana, Sara, Risto, Stefan, Ardita, Maria, Teofana, Alina, Nikita, Aleksandr, Ekaterina, Igor, Polina, Liviia, Alexandra, Kseniia, Tatiana, Vsevolod, Anja, Alma, Bojan, Velimir, Aleksandar, Vuk, Isidora, Aleksandar, Hana, Valentina, Dalma, Patrik, Nadja, Nina, Tinkara, Nina, Eva, Petja, Veronica, Ines, Marta, Anna, Jaohar, Javier, Tanit, Salvatore Ignacio, Rita, Lotta, Achraf, Molka, Mohamed, Medhi, Cherif, Amine, Manel, Nada, Mohamed, Sarra, Rania, Salma, Nursena, Aslihan, Ahsen, Asmin, Idil, Nisanur, Nilüfer, Ekin, Begüm, Sultan, Latife, Gülsün, Enver, Marina, Markijan, Liliia, Oleksandr, Mariia, Sofiya, Mykola, Vladyslav, Yelyzaveta, Oleksandra, Anton, Dmytro, Khaira, Lucy, Courtney, Jessica, Laura, Antonia, Evelyn, Georgia, Alisha, Dina, Frances, Ailidh, Shane, Caitlin, Poppy, Sarah, Anna, Hannah, Hannah

**Participants IFA:** Amélie, Maxime, Clara, Aglaée, Paulo Gugelmo, Hanna, Katina, Camille, Flavie, Léandre, Stanislas, Camille, Emma, Cyrille, Thomas, Line, Max, Louis, Anja, Alexander, Edna, Yvette, Maja, Eva, Benjamin, Polina, Finn, Elise, Yassin, Cédric, Tobias, Fynn, Felix, Esther, Enzo, Paula, Mathilde, Johann, Cathleen, Johann, Sinem, Johannes Felix, Tristan, Janis, Frieder, Leonie, Vivian, Flora, Emily, Anna, Charlotte, Hastaja, Jasmine, Aline, Eliza, Mathilda, Linda, Amaury, Sophie Annette, Samantha, Marie, Alina, Tina, Marie, Toni Marie, Adrian, Nisa, Julia, Lenno, Laura, Ayman, Nina, Maria, Gerrit, Charlotte, Halima, Ed-Jones, Marie, Lara, Saskia, Beatrix, Julius, Marie, Fontini, Rebecca, Bianca, Luise, Bianca, Miranda, Clara-Sophie, Greta, Matilde, Tobias, Katrin, Tom, Vivien, Yessica, Justine, Palmira, Valentina, Johannes, Lena-Sophie, Elmar, Antoine, Nina, Moritz, Timo, Fiona Sophie, Clemens, Steffen, Sophia, Isabell, Hannah, Nils, Francesco, Nicolas, Alexia, Olivier, Adelina, Mathilde

**Participants Arbeit und Leben:** Saran, Lamia, Toufik, Aminata, Angelia, Yaren, Lea, Selcan, Narimane, Vivien, Oliver, Simone, Amy, Abigail, Natalie, Ricardo, Sajjad, Anne, Lea, Niels-Henrik, Katja, Balázs, Daniel, Balázs, Ágnes, Ildikó, Dóra, Marianna, Zsófia, Éva, Boglárka

**Youth leaders:** Farah, Galya, Anne, Niklas, Emil, Amar, Nedim, Eva, Ivan, Ahmed, Eline, Marie, Léocadie, Rossella, Romain, Roberto, Paula, Thomas, Inka, Marcel, Alexandra, Florian, Sandro, Flavia, Marie, Katja, Lisa, Magali, Abdulfattah, Cedric, Anne, Niklas, Anas, Wiebke, Guillaume, Aurélie, Gustav, Corbinian, Catherine, Eva, Alina, Joanna, Maximilian, Yves, Ionna, Anastasia, Dor, Saad, Paola, Elena Rita, Anna, Hussein, Mohammed, Florin, Isabella, Lea, Tatsiana, Mohamed, Ceyda, Evrenzel, Kamile

**Staff Assistants:** Camille, Levi, Mirja, Manon, Monica, Lara, Xheva, Roxane, Amelia, Abdul.

# Welcome Speech by Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany



Looking at you young people, I realise it is now almost exactly a year since I stood together with the French President, Emmanuel Macron, at the Hartmannswillerkopf, a peak in the Vosges, which is known as the “mangeuse d’hommes”, the man-eater! One hundred years ago, young Germans and Frenchmen crouched in the trenches. Hungry, freezing cold, under constant fire.

On this small hill alone, more than 30,000 Germans and Frenchmen lost their lives. Maximilian Ott, aged 28, was the first German to die, Marius Magnin, aged 26, the first Frenchman – both of them were only a couple of years older than most of the people in this room.

Today we know it was not the mountain that claimed human lives, it was rampant nationalism. Nationalism is a man-eater, the mistaken belief in the superiority of one nation over other nations, one which led millions of young men to their death.

“That is why I am moved that so many young people are here today – people the same age as those who had to shoot each other

- to say together: “Europe has learned”,
- to experience together the united Europe,
- to stand together and renew the promise: No more war! ”

I say to you, the young generation, that the European peace project needs these efforts on a daily basis and it needs new, fresh ideas. After all, what is most precious is also the most fragile. Nothing that is important to you is guaranteed for all eternity without your input –

not the European Union, nor democracy, and of course not peace itself. Often seeing things from the outside helps us to really understand this, the wisdom shared by our guests from the Middle East, the Balkans or the Maghreb countries and many other regions.

I myself sense this time and again when I am abroad, particularly when I spend time in regions plagued by conflict: In these regions, Europe is for many a role model, a unique example of peace and prosperity in a place where enmity and destruction had raged for centuries.

People rightly expect this Europe to speak with one voice and support peace policy also on its doorstep. One last thing for you young people to take with you. The mothers and fathers of Europe performed a miracle. In politics and society, today’s generation has the duty to uphold and renew this miracle – and, above all, we want it to be your future! ○

Frank-Walter Steinmeier  
President of the Federal Republic of Germany



Remarks by  
Emmanuel Macron,  
President of the French Republic

“Germany and France succeeded in enforcing European ideas on the continent in the post-war period. Today we have to start a new chapter in the EU together, we owe it to Europe.”

“It’s about thinking and working on our common history and culture. Youth can only build the future if it knows the past. Otherwise there is the risk of repeating mistakes. Let’s create an open, ambitious Europe.”

# Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs



The future needs remembrance. Inspired by the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the "Youth for Peace" participants developed innovative and committed proposals for peace. Without the Franco-German Youth Office and its project partners such a successful and brilliant conclusion of the commemoration year would not have been possible. Thank you for that!

I would particularly like to congratulate the key figures here, namely the 500 young participants. They accepted our invitation and came to Berlin from 48 countries to exchange different perspectives on the past and the present, and work out common proposals for peace.

Their keen interest in the topic and committed involvement in discussions over the five days deeply impressed and encouraged us all:

*"if we are to build a peaceful future everyone will need to play their part!"*

This is especially true in times like these, when we are once again concerned about the rise of nationalism, isolation and xenophobia in many countries, especially here in Europe. Cohesion within and between our societies only has a chance if we succeed in reaching out across borders and agreeing on common values and goals.

In this sense, "Youth for Peace" made an important contribution to cross-border dialogue and understanding.

The 20 ideas for peace, which were presented as part of the final event and discussed with Federal President, Mr. Steinmeier and the French President, Mr. Macron, are the concrete result of these discussions. We would like to build on that and pursue the best suggestions.

*"Keeping alive the memory of the horrors and the errors of the past and developing ideas on how to maintain and strengthen peace in and around Europe will remain an ongoing task for all of us."*

Because history has taught us that peace unfortunately cannot be taken for granted: it is a valuable achievement that must always be defended anew by each individual and lived out by us all. ●

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heiko Maas".

Heiko Maas  
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

*"Youth for Peace" was an important contribution to cross-border dialogue and understanding."*

## Ambassador of France



A hundred years after the end of the First World War, the French Embassy in Germany and its various partners, beginning with the Federal Foreign Office and the FGYO, believed it was essential to give youth its rightful place. This is what prompted us to launch the "100 Ambassadors for Peace" project, linking up the commemorations held in France to mark the armistice on 11 November and the international "Youth for Peace" gathering in Berlin.

For several months, the 100 young ambassadors for peace, with support and guidance from their teachers, thought about and debated the fundamental themes of peace, freedom, reconciliation, democracy and Europe. Their ideas revolve around such major issues as disarmament, sustainable development, integration, migration and gender relations. These projects show how strongly they are committed, and their desire to find answers to the challenges to peace, now and in the future.

During the Youth for Peace gathering, 500 young people from 48 different countries drew up 20 proposals to guarantee peace over the next 100 years. Their ideas were formally presented to the French and German presidents during the closing ceremony in Berlin on 18 November. ○

*"The First World War Centenary events have drawn to a close, but I would like to encourage these young people – the citizens of the future – to continue working as ambassadors of peace in the world!"*

Anne-Marie Descôtes  
Ambassador of France

## Mission du Centenaire



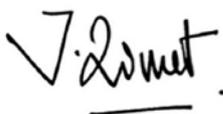
As the end of the World War One Centenary approached, the Franco-German dimension needed to come under the spotlight, in order to give meaning to the commemorations of a devastating and suicidal conflict in which the two countries played a central role.

*"We therefore agreed with our German partners that this remembrance would lead to what should help us to prevent further vicissitudes – the future, Europe and youth."*

On this basis, we developed the project of a federating event through which young people could take ownership of this past, which still has consequences today, and think about resolving the misunderstandings which cloud our capacity to act together today for a better world. Mobilised by the Franco-German Youth Office and the French Institute of Germany, pupils and young citizens from all over Europe and its neighbourhood gathered in Berlin to share the results of their thoughts on the Great War and other major historical events which followed during the century, before submitting their synthesis to the highest authorities of the two countries on the occasion of the German Mourning Day.

A week after the international commemoration of the Armistice at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, it was an opportunity to verify once more the lead role that France and Germany may play in thinking about the future of Europe, underscored by the speech made by the French President, Emmanuel Macron, at the Bundestag, and to confirm that the 11th November, so decisive for the French audience, is not an absolute marker in the chronology of the First World War.

Indeed, it is an open historical object in which we must continue to weigh the suffering endured by our forebears and explore the paths to an orderly coexistence on the planet we share. ○



Joseph Zimet  
Director



## Volksbund Deutsche Kriegs- gräberfürsorge



Wars do not break out – they are made. The lead-up to war usually sees prejudice against others stirred up and hatred aroused. We have lived in peace in our part of Europe for over 70 years. But peace, just like war, does not simply come and remain with us, it must be shaped and preserved again and again.

“Youth for Peace” grew out of this consideration, which is why the Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (German War Graves Commission), one of the major bearers of the culture of remembrance in Germany, was happy to participate, in close cooperation with ONACVG

(Office national des anciens combattants et victimes de guerre).

Bringing together young people from different nations who are concerned with the horrors of past wars waged against one another and the prospects of peace made with one another, lays an important foundation for the development of our society in the 21st century.

One example is a Volksbund project run during the commemoration week and the “Youth for Peace” campaign: young footballers from a number of European clubs researched the fate of their clubmates who died during the First World War and tried to put themselves in their shoes. They found out that the people who died 100 years ago were young men who wanted the same things as they want today: to live their lives, to enjoy sports and to have fun. In fictitious letters, they addressed their old club mates and made an imaginary connection. Then they played soccer against other youths from the same clubs. But over and beyond that, they played with each other and there was, of course, no room for prejudice.

Remembrance should not be ritualised, remembrance should not be used to revive the old enemy images, but our reflection on war and the suffering of the world wars should be used to shape the future – that is our common task. ○

“ Apart from declaring “War – never again!” this demands creativity, courage and commitment from us all. The ideas and activities that emerged during the international “Youth for Peace” meeting showed that this is possible, and how it can be done. They also show that we can only secure peace together. ”



Daniela Schily  
Secretary General

# Preparatory meeting, 14-16/9/2018

# Kick-off-event, 14/11/2018



60 youth leaders and 10 staff assistants from 26 countries at Jugendherberge Ostkreuz, Berlin



State Secretary Andreas Michaelis, Federal Foreign Office



Youth for Peace participants



Anne-Marie Descôtes, Jean-Marc Ayrault, Andreas Görgen, Dorothee Wassener, Irmgard Maria Fellner



The kick-off-event "Youth for peace" was organised in close cooperation with Körber Foundation at Bolle Festsäle

# Workshop: Overcoming war, 15/11/2018



Afua Hirsch



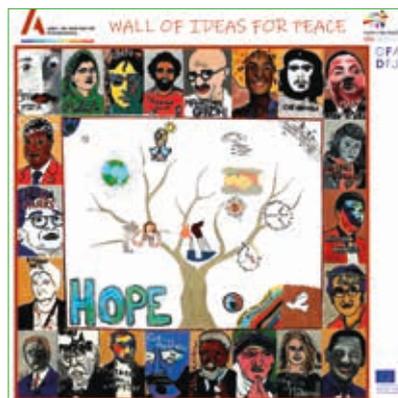
Niklas Mönch, Béatrice Angrand, Anne-Marie Descôtes, Daniela Schily, Thomas Paulsen, Almut Möller



Sönke Neitzel, Jasmila Žbanić, Jean-Marc Ayrault, Niklas Mönch



Marvin Brooks



# Workshop: Building peace, 16/11/2018

# Workshop: The future of peace, in and around Europe, 17/11/18



# Closing ceremony, 18/11/2018



## Context and concept



"Youth for Peace – 100 Years after World War I, 100 Ideas for Peace" needs to be understood in the **context** and as part of a larger cycle commemorating the centenary of the end of World War I (1914-1918) that began in 2014. Following previous youth events at Hartmannswillerkopf (2014) and in Verdun (2016), the international youth meeting that took place in Berlin from 14 to 18 November 2018 was an opportunity to move beyond the Franco-German perspective and discuss the lessons in peace learned through World War I from European and transnational viewpoints. Youth for Peace gathered 500 young people from 48 countries, including Germany, France, other EU member states and accession countries and countries in its eastern and southern neighbourhood. The international youth meeting culminated in a ceremony on 18 November 2018 during which the 500 young people made their voice heard and discussed concrete ideas for peace with Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic.

The **educational concept** of the youth meeting was designed to foster intercultural dialogue and encounters, respect for diversity, transnational memory work, a reflection on the end of World War I from multiple perspectives, and its impact on the countries involved and their societies to date. To this end, the young people worked together during three workshop days in 20 small groups of 25 participants. The workshop programme addressed the overarching question: How can a war or conflict situation be overcome and transformed into sustainable peace? Taking the end of World War I as a starting point, the debates then focused on recent and ongoing conflicts, and the future of peace within Europe and between Europe and its southern and eastern neighbours.

The **three workshop days** each consisted of three modules building on what had gone before. Each workshop day had an overarching theme: Day 1, "Overcoming War", included phases of getting acquainted, discussing personal connections to World War I and prior knowledge of the conflict. During an "Open Forum", different perspectives on war and peace were discussed by external experts, civil society activists, scientists and artists in interactive formats that offered inspiration and "food for thought" on the ideas for peace. Day 2, "Building Peace", was an opportunity to discover places of war and peace in Berlin, take a closer look at the meaning of peace, and at concrete methods and instruments for building peace. Day 3, "The Future of Peace in and around Europe", was dedicated to defining and preparing the presentation of the Ideas for Peace, together with the newly arrived 100 "IFA Peace Ambassadors". At the end of Day 3, all 20 groups presented their Ideas for Peace to all the other participants during a showcase.

This **peace educational work on history and remembrance** introduced the participants to other narratives and perceptions of historical events and developments. This encouraged them to reconsider the practice of selecting and dealing with historical facts and sources in different societies and time periods. The programme also made them aware of the subjectivity of discourses on history, without relativism or historical negationism.



The workshop **methods** were interactive, interdisciplinary, multiperspective, creative (theatre, music, movement, etc.) and implemented by young people (60 international youth leaders) for young people. Particular attention was given to language animation, a method developed by the FGYO, to build bridges between the many languages spoken by the 500 participants from 48 countries. Formats included working in small and large groups, role-play games, learning about historical sites, an open forum with resource stations and numerous other activities fostering critical analysis and participation.



The **creative combination of intercultural interaction, multiperspectivity and analysis of historical and political contexts** gave

all young participants regardless of their educational, age, social or cultural background the opportunity to find a personal approach to the topic of war and peace. The encounter aimed to help dismantle mutual stereotypes and prejudices, and raise awareness of other cultures, histories and languages. By taking a sensitive approach to history, participants could experience how to work constructively with others on sometimes antagonistic or conflictual interpretations of history and cultures of memory. Participants could discover how they, personally, can become actively committed to building peace.

Alongside the nine workshop modules, the **accompanying cultural programme** (movie night, football game, karaoke evening, party night, etc.) created a balance between sessions dedicated to serious reflection and discussion, and more recreational and creative opportunities for getting to know one another through informal exchanges.

The educational concept was developed by a working group of experienced pedagogues: Isabel Schäfer and Sandrine Debrosse-Lucht with Ludovic Fresse, Anna Kauert, Nicolas Moll, Rafik Mousli, Sarah Neis and Garance Thauvin. ○

Special attention was paid to handling **diversity**. 500 participants were invited from 52 different countries according to the principle of concentric circles: Germany, France and the other EU Member States; five EU candidate countries Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey; two potential candidate countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo; Eastern Neighbourhood countries: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia; and Southern Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Eventually, 48 countries were represented. The goal was to ensure as much social diversity as possible, a fair gender balance and a balance between participants from formal and non-formal fields of education. About 400 participants were young adults between the ages of 18 and 22, while about 100 were school students between the ages of 15 and 16. The school students, the "IFA Peace Ambassadors", were recruited through a school initiative organised by the Institut français d'Allemagne (IFA). They participated in the event from 16 to 18 November 2018. In view of this very diverse constellation of profiles, ages, social backgrounds and life experiences, it was all the more important to provide a holistic conceptual and diversity approach, raising their awareness of such issues as racism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and the like. A **Charter of Intercultural Dialogue and Diversity** was discussed in the groups; respectful behaviour during one-on-one encounters and openness towards differences were encouraged.



## Closing remarks by special envoy Isabel Schäfer



Now, as the European peace project is struggling against the return of nationalism, populism, internal divisions and disintegration, it is even more important to resist. At the same time, Europe needs to improve its relations with its neighbours. International youth meetings like "Youth for Peace" enable young people to get to know their peers from other countries, make new friends and overcome stereotypes and prejudice through intercultural encounter and dialogue. Based on the **Youth for Peace Charter of intercultural dialogue and diversity**, participants shared their views on intercultural conflicts and differences, and developed ways to deal with them.

Youth for Peace aimed not only to sustain Franco-German remembrance of the end of World War I, but also to reinforce a societal and cultural **multiperspectivity**. This was achieved through a **critical, transnational reflection on war and peace, historical narratives** and their potential (mis)use for political purposes (see the keynote by Afua Hirsch). Using WWI as a starting point, the discussions looked towards the future. What does peace mean to today's youth? What peaceful future do they imagine for Europe and its neighbours? Not to forget the key question of the workshop program: **How can war be overcome and lasting peace achieved?** In this way for example participants from Syria could share their experience of war and missing peace. **"From War to Peace"** was also the topic of the **Open Forum** during which various guests discussed new impulses with the participants. They included among others historians Christian Taoutel and Daniel Schönplugg, film director Jan Peter, activists from the Nobel Peace Prize winner ICAN, and conflict mediator Ramzi Merhej from the Berghof Foundation.

Seeing the 500 young participants enjoy the opportunity to participate in this event and meet a wide range of **young people from many different countries** was very moving. Participants showed great interest and respect for each other, and discussed how they, as individuals and citizens, can contribute to build peace. Some demonstrated their creativity by painting the "Wall of Ideas for Peace"; others, such as the *ArtLink Balkan Young Virtuosi* (from former enemy Balkan countries), performed music. Others crafted the 20 Ideas for Peace, with contagious optimism and hope for peace. The presence of Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and President Emmanuel Macron at the closing ceremony was a special tribute to the young people and an **opportunity for the youth to make their voices heard** in the political sphere.

**Sustaining the Youth for Peace project** is very important. Beyond the personal ties that were built, the young people should be given a chance to put some of their 20 Ideas for Peace into practice. They have assumed their role as ambassadors of peace. They have worked hard, with enthusiasm and conviction, and should be enabled by the two presidents, the FGYO and its partners to continue their active contribution to peace in the world. Youth for Peace participants, stay involved! Stay in contact! Ask for support and carry out your **Ideas for Peace!**

It was a great adventure and pleasure for all the teams of the FGYO and its partners to prepare and hold this very special event. The cooperation with the partners was very productive and made the youth meeting a success. I would like to thank all partners, guests and staff involved, in particular Béatrice Angrand, Stephanie Schaal, Martina Hackelberg and the "small" Youth for Peace team! ○



## Comments by the research group



We form an international (Franco-German), interdisciplinary research group (departments of Social Sciences and Modern History) that is conducting an evaluation study to analyse interactions at international youth encounters. Over five years (2015-2019), we have researched international projects within the context of the project series "100 years after World War I, 100 projects for Peace in Europe" initiated by the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO). In this setting, we investigated how young people experience international youth work as participants, youth leaders or contact persons. We analysed the opportunities and challenges they encounter in these kinds of projects. We therefore studied different international encounters each year, (mainly) between German and French adolescents. The aim is to derive concrete action recommendations for practitioners in international youth work. Finally, the results will be published by the FGYO in 2019.

Our research group consists of four people: Simone Odierna is a professor at Saarland University of Applied Sciences in the Department of Social Work and Child Pedagogy in Saarbrücken, Laurent Jalabert is a lecturer in modern history at the University of Lorraine in Nancy, Nicolas Czubak is a history teacher, working in a college and in the education department of the Mémorial de Verdun, Diemut König is a social pedagogue and research assistant at the Institute for Technology Transfer at Saarland University of Applied Sciences.

In the context of this research project we took part in the international youth meeting "Youth for Peace" in Berlin, as it was the last of eight events visited during our field research. On the one hand, we, as a research group, accompanied the youth meeting by observing and getting in contact with youth leaders and adolescents to gain an insight into what it is like to participate in an international experience of this type, what could be learned, what could be difficult and what benefits participation could bring personally and socially. On the other hand, we led a workshop ourselves, which was entitled "What is the Good in the Bad? Conflicts and their learning potential in intercultural

encounters".

The workshop was divided into two parts: In the first part, the young people were invited to discuss their personal and/or cultural links with World War I and the subsequent peace process with us and to express their feelings about war, peace and the construction of peace. Accordingly they used a slide show in the workshop with art works about World War I and the development of the peace process between France and Germany in the time apart (photographs, paintings, drawings) - demonstrating these states of society. The second part of the workshop displayed our research results.

*"On the basis of our recent scientific findings, we discussed the challenges and opportunities of international encounters, especially regarding the learning potential in intercultural conflicts."*

Throughout our research, we repeatedly encountered situations in which open or subliminal conflicts occurred – between groups and individuals as well as personal boundary experiences and the resulting inner conflicts of participants and project managers. It was impressive to see how open and thoughtful youth leaders and participants reacted to our input and that they shared their own opinions on the subject with us.

During the current omnipresent phenomena of globalisation and pluralisation, this research will provide valuable insights into what is needed to develop profitable international and intercultural contacts and, in that respect, what could sustainably promote intercultural understanding and peacebuilding education in Europe. ○

Simone Odierna,  
Saarland University of Applied Sciences

Laurent Jalabert,  
University of Lorraine in Nancy

Nicolas Czubak,  
Memorial of Verdun

Diemut König,  
Saarland University of Applied Sciences

# Comments by the educational coordinators

## Challenges

The educational approach had to cope with different challenges: first, to provide sufficient room for educational work with the young people within such a big event that in addition to its sheer size had diplomatic and political ambitions, too. The objective of the development of concrete ideas in a short time period needed to be combined with the approach of process-oriented exchange pedagogy. Second, to merge historical learning (mainly about World War I) and a reflection about peace and peace work today; and third, to bring young people from so many different countries together, who did not know each other before, and to create a constructive intercultural group dynamic enabling group work.



The multiperspectivist and international character of the project was not only supposed to be implemented with regard to the composition of the participants, but also with regard to the 20 teams of youth leaders (tridems); each workshop group of 25 participants was accompanied by three youth leaders from three different countries. Youth for Peace could provide many examples of successful intercultural teamwork and show in practice how the FGYO's methods of intercultural learning (e.g. based on its Vademecum) can be implemented, hand in hand, with methods of new colleagues from other backgrounds. Each tridem has implemented the educational concept in its own way.

## Difficulties

One difficulty was the limited time available. In only five days the objective was to touch upon

the past, the present and the future, and at the same time to provide sufficient time to discover the city, to participate in the accompanying cultural programme, and to spend informal and recreational moments.

Another difficulty concerned the presentation of the Ideas for Peace. Initially, the good intention was to valorise the work of the young people by handing their ideas over to the two presidents in form of a small selection (3-4 ideas), as not all 20 ideas could have been presented at the closing ceremony. But in the end, some participants did not understand well this intention or perceived this selection as an injustice, when their idea for peace was not selected.

Many participants came from Europe's neighbouring countries in the East and in the South. For them, some of the questionings could not be answered from a European perspective. The discussions in the groups were transnational at all times, but for some participants it was not always clear which role Europe was supposed to play when it came to the point of developing concrete proposals for peace.

## Successes

The goals of the youth meeting, as formulated in the educational concept, were globally achieved, although they were very ambitious and conceived for a very short time period and a very international constellation. All in all, the educational concept has worked out very well. The tridems of youth leaders have succeeded in bringing the groups quickly together and in creating an open group atmosphere, so that the young participants could discuss with one and another in an honest and respectful way.

The implementation of the educational concept has also succeeded in responding to the necessity to treat sensitive themes such as remembrance and history in a protected and respectful framework, with the participation of 500 young people with very diverse socialisations and backgrounds.

The multiperspectivist approach was enriched by theoretical aspects, cultural and artistic practices and critical reflection on the challenges related to the transmission of history and memory in the different societies concerned.

The young people worked very hard together on the development of ideas oriented towards the future and dedicated to the building of peace on different levels (local, regional, national, transnational) and in different fields (education, politics, economics, media, ecology, etc.).

### Added Value

Beyond the learning process about history, winning new knowledge and insights about the challenges and possibilities of peace work, the greatest added value for the young participants was certainly the opportunity to have get to know so many people from so many different countries.

For the FGYO, too, it was an important added value that beyond the traditional German-Franco framework young people from so many different countries could gather on the occasion of this meeting. This also means an interesting potential of new multipliers, be it on the level of youth leaders or on the level of the young participants.

This rare, special and unlikely meeting of young people from countries still at war with each other has become a reality in a very symbolic place: in Berlin, the German capital, burdened with history and remembrance, and witness of the big conflicts of the 20th century.

This sort of meeting, by allowing a great openness of mind, brings peace in an international context marked by profound geopolitical and societal conflicts and by uncertainties about the future. In addition, it has triggered the desire of a great number of young people to continue to commit themselves at their level to peace and to the respect of human rights being a condition for peace.

### Perspectives

At the political level, great attention should be paid to any sort of initiative that directly draws on or confirms the Ideas for Peace expressed by young people. It would be desirable to ensure a follow-up of the Ideas for Peace developed by the Youth for Peace participants and to enable some of them to be realised or to be sustained.

Therefore, it would be useful to organize a (smaller) follow-up meeting on the topic of "Building Peace" in order to further develop the Ideas for Peace, and to deepen the work on political contents and critical reflection. All Youth for Peace participants could be regularly informed about this work, for instance through a Youth for Peace newsletter to be sent out twice a year.



For similar events in the future, the educational concept of Youth for Peace can serve as a basis and inspiration. The variety of methods used should be shared among the youth leaders in order to enrich their own practices in international youth work and to inspire others.

The network of Youth for Peace participants and youth leaders should be kept alive, through a self-organised platform or through incorporation into existing FGYO networks.

Sandrine Debrosse-Lucht, Ludovic Fresse, Anna Kauert, Nicolas Moll, Rafik Mousli, Sarah Neis, Garance Thauvin.

### Evaluation

The youth meeting was evaluated by i-Eval, a platform for evaluation of international youth meetings ([www.i-eval.eu](http://www.i-eval.eu)). Some of the results perfectly illustrate the impact of such a project on the participants:

- 96% of the participants would recommend such a meeting to their friends.
- 93% feel like learning other languages.
- 98% would like to know more about the other countries.
- 95% can imagine going to one of the other countries for longer (at least 3 months) after this encounter.
- 90% were encouraged by this encounter to get involved in civil society (associations, federations, international organisations). ○

# Feedback from the Youth for Peace youth leaders

The **60 Youth for Peace youth leaders from 26 countries** were selected from among 256 applicants. They worked together in 20 teams of three youth leaders from three different countries. Each tridem accompanied a group of 20-25 participants during the youth meeting. Thanks to their experience and commitment, the young participants were able to exchange views easily and respectfully. Some extracts from their reports follow:



"Most of the participants highlighted the great group dynamic and the relationships between them as one of the best things they experienced during the event. They felt safe to express themselves within the group and told us that the atmosphere was supportive for their learning process. (...) We chose to work on the symbols and language of commemorative or memorial monuments as a metaphor for reconciliation and were inspired by the Living Monument method in our handbook (Vademecum). (...) The group of participants was very interested in the topic of the meeting. They overcame prejudices with humour and open discussions. (...) They now feel like multipliers and this is positive for building peace. In future meetings, the social diversity in the groups should be greater." (group 1)

"The staff was amazing, everyone was committed to promoting an effective multicultural and cordial environment. (...) The movie selected for the movie night perfectly suited the topic of the event. (...) Some of the participants complained that they had not been able to show their presentation to everyone, and that they had had the chance to see only a few of the other groups' proposals." (group 2)

"Through the timeline, the participants were able to get to know each other more and share

important events from their personal lives and at "national" level. (...) The Open Forum was an opportunity for not only the participants but also for us youth leaders to meet people who work in different fields. The party in the evening was really nice and a good treat after a day of hard work." (group 3)

"Our group was very dynamic, with participants from various countries including countries in conflict (Russia/Ukraine, Kosovo/Macedonia, Armenia/Turkey). But all the participants were looking for a peaceful exchange and happy to get the opportunity to meet and debate. (...) The integration of the IFA Peace Ambassadors was flawless. All the other participants were kind and helpful with them." (group 4)

"Mainly serving as an ice-breaker, the language animation method helped to create a friendly atmosphere and eliminate borders and awkwardness amongst the participants. With English being the main communication language, participants seemed to be quite happy to have an opportunity to introduce some phrases in their mother tongue and share it with others. (...) The diversity of backgrounds and cultures gave a lot of inspiration to both youth leaders and the participants. Participants also felt overwhelmed with the variety of opinions, cultures and perspectives. (...) A lot of them said that it would be great to have more time to explore the city and interact with participants from other groups." (group 5)

"One participant from a North African country said that she was pleasantly surprised by the fact that she could express herself very freely. She was not used to that in her home country; the group felt like a safe space to her. (...) The IFA Peace Ambassadors said that the programme was too short for them and that it



was impossible for them to see some parts of Berlin. (...) The cooperation with the educational coordinators was perfect. The distribution of the roles in our Tridem was based on knowledge and experience, (...) and on the principle of collegiality and respect. (...) I would leave more space for free discussions and deeper historical debates next time." (group 6)

"The participants' diversity made this activity very meaningful, as they were able to discover different perspectives and historical facts that are not mentioned at all in their countries." (group 7)

"Participants enjoyed the activities and were eager to share their experiences and ask each other questions. (...) The presentations were done with a lot of effort and love by the participants. The team was so proud of the care and attention they put into doing all this work and organising the room to welcome the others during the Showcase." (group 8)

"We were impressed by the speed they worked at, including graphics and research into their topics. Most participants said that they learned how to deal with different opinions, point of views and personal backgrounds. (...) Some were apprehensive at first about meeting people from countries that are currently in a situation of conflict, but later they overcame their fears. (...) This was an enriching and inspiring experience." (group 9)



"Especially those people who were not used to international exchange contexts were really glad about the atmosphere in the group. (...) We talked about the concept of peace on very different levels and tackled the topic of everyday discrimination through structures and societies, as well as the idea of different narratives about historical events and our present life. (...) Having participants from not only Northern and Western European countries, but also the Near East, the Maghreb and Eastern Europe made it possible to reveal very different and important aspects of WW1." (group 10)

"Our tridem was very complementary and dynamic. Thanks to our three different profiles, we could propose and lead workshops from different angles in a scientific and amusing way for the participants. (...) We were positively surprised by the energy and the dynamics of our group, due to the participants' level of English and the maturity of the majority of them. They were also creative, as we saw by the way they presented the idea in the Showcase with a beautiful song full of meaning. (...) This intercultural meeting allowed many young people to deconstruct prejudices and exchange with young people from countries that are radically different from their own. It will certainly help them a lot over the next few years." (group 11)

"Our group was made up of 19 youths from 17 countries, they were very involved. (...) Have a lighter programme every day. Have some free time in the evening when nothing is planned. Participants need free time to relax and get to know each other on their own." (group 17)

"It would have been better not to limit to presenting just one idea per workshop group, because this placed unproductive pressure on the group. (...) The grouping into tridem teams with the educational coordinators was very helpful." (group 18)

"The preparatory meeting in September proved to be very valuable and to the point. (...) The whole organization was meticulously orchestrated and it made our work so much easier." (group 19)

"A vast majority of participants shared positive aspects, such as being listened to for the first time in their lives and seeing that peace is actually possible." (group 20)



# Ideas for Peace

Following previous youth events on Hartmannswillerkopf in the French Vosges (2014) and in Verdun (2016), the youth meeting presented the opportunity to move beyond the Franco-German perspective and discuss the lessons of peace learned as a result of World War I from European and transnational viewpoints. The meeting culminated in an event on 18 November 2018 during which the following 20 Ideas for Peace were ceremoniously handed over to and discussed with Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic.



**1.** We believe that the best way to preserve peace is by **organizing numerous local clubs at universities and schools as places of social diversity.** Club members would meet often and be involved in cultural exchanges and try to fight prejudices. These clubs would organize small-scale exchange programmes with foreign clubs with the events advertised on social media. We believe that these events are key to increasing understanding and communication between countries, the main ingredients for peace.

**2.** We advocate for the **creation of a Pan-European Youth Office.** The mission of this office is to promote dialogue, understanding, and peace and convey transnational core values through education, exchanges, intercultural communication and international youth programmes. It will reach out to all communities, thereby promoting acceptance, tolerance and respect. This independent organisation will cooperate with governments and NGOs all over Europe and its neighbour states.

**3.** Considering **education as a main tool for peace,** we believe in a re-evaluation of the international education system based on the creation of a "Resolution on the Principles of Education" (R.P.E) written by and for young people. Its aim is to raise awareness for the short and long-term global challenges of mankind and learn from historical events. This process should take place at school, which will lead to the natural adaption of universal values promoting peace.

**4. "Mutual understanding" is a new global school subject** with the aim of educating students about the history, everyday life and future challenges

of states worldwide. Experts from different countries design a 60-minute lesson on their country and share their views on history as well as current conflicts. The lessons result in further understanding of division and crisis worldwide in addition to promoting self-reflection and curiosity. Following the lessons, students will be given the opportunity to engage with peers from the nations discussed, exchange opinions and ask questions.

**5.** The online platform "Humanity for peace" will be a network that establishes global peace through local projects. **"Humanity for peace" provides a digital platform that aims to connect people around the world who want to promote and maintain peaceful relationships between communities.** We hope to do that by exchanging ideas and experiences online and implementing them in daily life worldwide.

**6.** It is hard to achieve peace when only some of us are invited. **We want a global and inclusive programme in the form of an online platform where all types of exchange programmes are promoted, explained and made available to all.** This platform will provide information on existing exchange opportunities in addition to making it easier to create new ones. Its aim is to achieve a lifelong sense of intercultural unity and promote inspiration, action, and peace.

**7.** PEACE aims to connect international youth through three main initiatives: **The first step consists of international education including cultural, historical, political, and artistic aspects as well as languages.** The next stage gives young people the opportunity to take part in exchange programmes around the world. During the project, students are encouraged to share their ideas, thoughts, and experiences with fellow participants from different backgrounds through an online platform.

**8. We propose a conversation project across local communities and Europe.** We envisage community spaces that host events where people across social backgrounds and ages can gather in order to talk and share experiences. Furthermore, at the meetings, there will be an opportunity to write personal letters that will be sent to other participating centres all over Europe. We hope these exchanges, albeit not face-to-face, will still produce personal connections to promote harmony.

**9.** Universal Basic Income improves living standards, enhances freedom and is a matter of social justice, which thereby leads to peace. By providing every

citizen with their fundamental needs, the wealth gap is reduced and societal issues including homelessness, crime and drug use are diminished. **As technology begins to dominate our workforce, this economic and social model can help solve unemployment and prevent future conflicts by reducing social inequality.**

**10.** In today's world, sometimes we don't appreciate the value of peace, so **we propose enhancing the Day of Peace by examining the topic in different ways and sectors.** Education, politics, and media are all means for creating war and peace. It's all about choosing the direction you want to follow. We can encourage peace building through reflection, workshops, and a variety of events, but who we are and what we want is actually defined by our everyday lives and actions.

**11.** Acknowledging that free education creates a socially equal, socially stable and tolerant society and thus fosters peace, **we call for the EU to fund scholarships that enable more citizens from low-income backgrounds to visit vocational and technical schools and colleges.** Keeping in mind that the low social status of low-income jobs creates social conflicts and internal instability, we call for the creation of a European organization coordinating the exchange of skilled workers across the EU, thus making employment contracts in this sector more attractive to future employees.

**12.** Throughout our time in Berlin, our group has explored the topic of war and peace using theatre. This helped us realize the power of art as a universal medium to experience history and understand the value of peace. **We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the educational value of art and its power to transform lives. Therefore, we deem it necessary to offer free access to art for everyone in order to create peace.**

While we were exploring conflict and peace in the workshop, we also realized that in our daily lives, it is often the simple acts of kindness that can transform a conflict situation into a peaceful situation. We therefore encourage everyone to exercise the universal language of kindness when interacting with other human beings.

**13. Inequality always leads to conflict. Inequality exists everywhere.** A German citizen has easy access to 165 other countries while a French one can access only 164. It is even more unfair that a Syrian citizen can only access 36. In addition to not having access to different cultures, people do also not have equal access to information. We therefore propose open access to countries and information in order to ensure equality and transparency and avoid conflict.

**14. We propose making school a peaceful place of social diversity and integration.** To do so, international groups of young leaders will organize critical, inspiring peace workshops that take place one week per year in every school worldwide.

**15. "United in Youth" will be a 6-day international youth summit encouraging cultural acceptance and open-mindedness among young people from across the globe.** The participants will be aged 15 and come from a total of 20 countries, with 4 people randomly selected from each country. The teenagers will partake in workshops that allow them to

celebrate culture through food and music, discover history from different perspectives, and create their own political parties and manifestos.

**16.** The Peace Line will be a physical line (with no branches, ultimately forming a circle) that goes across Europe and beyond and passes through the most important monuments of both World Wars.

**Remembering the hard times Europe has gone through during the current peace and prosperity of Europe is important for creating long-lasting peace** in Europe and is a very effective reminder that achieving peace and prosperity after war is possible. The Peace Line also has the potential to grow into an international phenomenon and a cultural destination.

**17. Our pledge for peace is to build an international network of experts** that includes and acknowledges a variety of formal and non-formal competences to produce and promote common, non-partisan, intercultural knowledge based on a fair and sustainable social dialogue. The outcome of this network will be a joint curriculum, learning materials and recommendations for local implementation.

**18. Recent surveys have shown that the rise of fake news has led to increasing mistrust in the media worldwide. Our project proposal wants to tackle this development by establishing an online tool that checks the facts behind news.** News that contains only facts will be certified with a visible mark, which will enable media users to find stories that they can trust and rely on. The tool will be established in cooperation with researchers, journalists and media experts from around the world.

**19. Through environmental initiatives, we want to reduce current inequalities and prevent future conflicts caused by the unequal distribution of food and resources** and the misuse of polluting chemicals.

The European Union and state governments should promote the smart usage of food and water, educate youth about respectful ways of handling food and healthy eating habits by supporting gardening in schools and providing them with materials and knowledge. By raising awareness, we can feed more people and save soil and animals.

**20.** When we are surrounded by a lot of information, **we need to learn now to differentiate between what is trustworthy and what is not.** We propose the creation of a programme where students can learn how to select reliable information from various sources and can be exposed to the experiences of misrepresented groups. People from many fields would help them develop critical thinking so they can form stronger opinions and values. ○



# 500 YOUNG PARTICIPANTS FROM 48 COUNTRIES

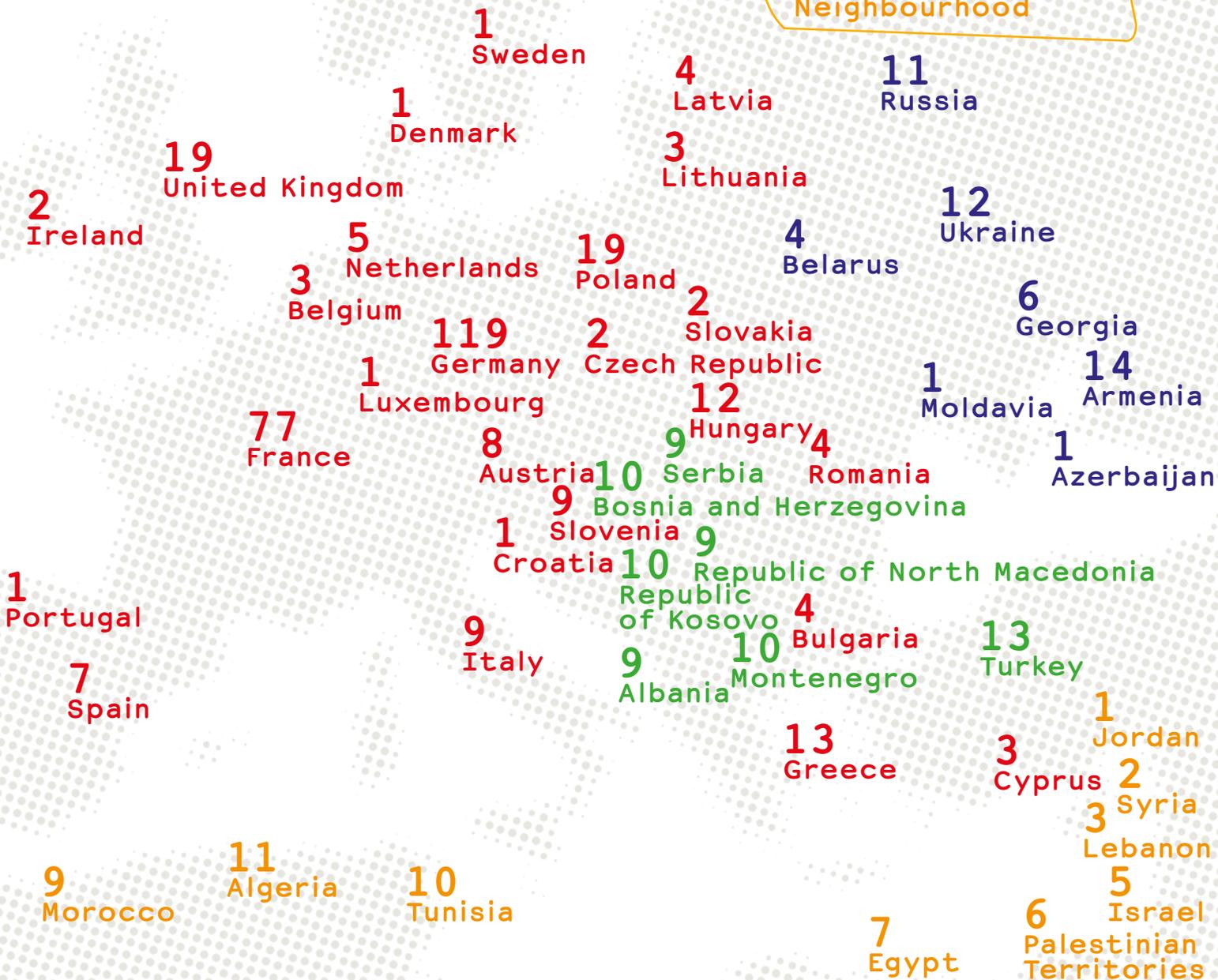


**328**  
participants from  
EU Member States

**48**  
participants from the  
Eastern Neighbourhood

**70**  
participants from EU  
candidate countries

**53**  
participants from  
the Southern  
Neighbourhood



# Patrons



## Federal Foreign Office

The Federal Foreign Office maintains relations between Germany and other states as well as with inter-governmental organisations with offices in Berlin and Bonn and a network of around 230 diplomatic missions. The Ministry promotes an intensive exchange with the world in business, culture, science and technology, environment, development issues and many other topics.

[www.auswaertiges-amt.de](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de)



## First World War Centenary Partnership Programme

The First World War Centenary Partnership Programme (Mission du Centenaire de la Première Guerre mondiale) is a public interest group established in 2012 by the Government for the preparation and implementation of the commemorative programme for the First World War centenary.

[www.centenaire.org](http://www.centenaire.org)

# Organisers



## Franco-German Youth Office

The Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) is an international organisation serving German-French cooperation with offices in Paris, Berlin and Saarbrücken.

The FGYO promotes youth exchanges and projects between Germany and France, including student and professional exchanges, language courses, city and regional partnerships, internships, scholarships, and research. Recently it has extended its activities to neighbouring countries in Central and Southeastern Europe as well as the Mediterranean.

[www.fgyo.org](http://www.fgyo.org)



## French Embassy in Germany

The French Embassy in Germany is one of the largest diplomatic representations of France in the world. It is subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is headed by the Ambassador. The embassy serves as a mediator between France and Germany and represents the interests of France and French nationals living in Germany.

[de.ambafrance.org](http://de.ambafrance.org)



## German War Graves Commission

The Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V. is a humanitarian organisation working on behalf of the Federal government dedicated to obtaining, preserving and maintaining the graves of the German war dead abroad. The Volksbund informs and supports international cooperation in the care of war graves and runs a series of events for formal and non-formal historical and political education.

[www.volksbund.de](http://www.volksbund.de)



## Institut français Germany

The Institut français is a network of more than 200 institutions worldwide that work internationally to promote the French language, education and culture and deepen intercultural exchange.

In Germany, the Institut français (IFA) encompasses a total of 11 French institutes at 14 locations in 16 federal Laender and works together with 12 Franco-German cultural centres with the aim of contributing to the spread of the French language and French and Francophone culture throughout Germany.

[www.institutfrancais.de](http://www.institutfrancais.de)



## Office national des anciens combattants et victimes de guerre

Founded during the First World War, ONACVG, a public administration, continues to provide moral support and material aid to more than 3 million veterans and war victims to this day.

[www.onac-vg.fr](http://www.onac-vg.fr)

# Partners



**Körber Foundation**  
[www.koerber-stiftung.de](http://www.koerber-stiftung.de)



**dbjw – German-Baltic Youth Office**  
[www.dbjw.de](http://www.dbjw.de)



**ARBEIT UND LEBEN**  
**DGB / VHS Berlin-Brandenburg e.V.**  
[www.arbeitundleben.de](http://www.arbeitundleben.de)



**RYCO – Regional Youth Cooperation Office**  
[www.rycowb.org](http://www.rycowb.org)



**JUGEND für Europa**  
[jugendfuereuropa.de](http://jugendfuereuropa.de)



**IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany**  
[www.ijab.de](http://www.ijab.de)



**Tandem – Coordination Center German-Czech Youth Exchange**  
[www.tandem-org.de](http://www.tandem-org.de)



**ConAct – Coordination Center for German-Israeli Youth Exchange**  
[www.conact-org.de](http://www.conact-org.de)



**Stiftung Deutsch-Russischer Jugend austausch**  
[www.stiftung-drja.de](http://www.stiftung-drja.de)



**UK-German Connection**  
[www.ukgermanconnection.org](http://www.ukgermanconnection.org)



**dpjw – German-Polish Youth Organization**  
[www.dpjw.org](http://www.dpjw.org)



**Deutsch-Türkische Jugendbrücke**  
[www.jugendbruecke.de](http://www.jugendbruecke.de)

# Many thanks to...

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